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**Level 1** – 14th May 2026

## African continent splitting into two parts

**FREE** online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-1.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 2 and 3. They are (a little) harder.

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-1.html>

A big part of East Africa is breaking away from the African continent. Scientists studied a long, deep crack in Zambia. The crack is called a rift. A geologist is studying it. He believes it shows that a giant piece of land is breaking away. He said there was evidence that the rift is active and that other rifts are too. He warned that this may be an early sign of the break-up of sub-Saharan Africa.

The land on Earth is always moving. Three hundred million years ago, there was one supercontinent. Over millions of years, it broke up. Giant areas of land moved across the oceans to become today's continents. Rifts are one reason why continents split apart. The rift in Zambia is part of a 2,500-kilometre-long crack. It is moving very slowly. It will take millions of years for Africa to split in two. In 200 million years, there could be just one supercontinent again.

Sources: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2526136-a-new-tectonic-plate-boundary-could-be-forming-in-southern-africa/>  
<https://www.sciencealert.com/first-signatures-of-a-future-tectonic-split-are-bubbling-up-in-zambia>  
<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/science/earth-science/a-new-ocean-could-be-forming-as-africa-splits-apart>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-1.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A big part                 | a. early sign            |
| 2. breaking away from the     | b. deep crack            |
| 3. Scientists studied a long, | c. breaking away         |
| 4. The crack is called a      | d. of East Africa        |
| 5. a giant piece of land is   | e. active                |
| 6. evidence that the rift is  | f. of sub-Saharan Africa |
| 7. this may be an             | g. African continent     |
| 8. the break-up               | h. rift                  |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The land on Earth is               | a. continents split apart |
| 2. Over millions of years,            | b. across the oceans      |
| 3. Giant areas of land moved          | c. supercontinent again   |
| 4. become today's                     | d. always moving          |
| 5. one reason why                     | e. continents             |
| 6. part of a 2,500-kilometre-         | f. Africa to split in two |
| 7. It will take millions of years for | g. it broke up            |
| 8. there could be just one            | h. long crack             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-1.html>

A (1) \_\_\_\_\_ East Africa is breaking away from the African continent. Scientists studied (2) \_\_\_\_\_ crack in Zambia. The crack is called a rift. A geologist (3) \_\_\_\_\_. He believes it shows that a giant piece of (4) \_\_\_\_\_ away. He said there was evidence that the rift is active (5) \_\_\_\_\_ rifts are too. He warned that this may be an early sign of the (6) \_\_\_\_\_-Saharan Africa.

(7) \_\_\_\_\_ Earth is always moving. Three hundred million years ago, there was one supercontinent. Over millions of years, (8) \_\_\_\_\_. Giant areas of land moved across the oceans to become today's continents. Rifts are (9) \_\_\_\_\_ continents split apart. The rift in Zambia (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a 2,500-kilometre-long crack. It is (11) \_\_\_\_\_. It will take millions of years for Africa to (12) \_\_\_\_\_. In 200 million years, there could be just one supercontinent again.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-1.html>

A big part of East Africa is breaking away from the African continent. Scientists studied along, deep crack in Zambia. The crack is called a rift. A geologist is studying it. He believes it shows that a giant piece of land is breaking away. He said there was evidence that the rift is active and that other rifts are too. He warned that this may be a nearly sign of the break-up of sub-Saharan Africa. The land on Earth is always moving. Three hundred million years ago, there was one supercontinent. Over millions of years, it broke up. Giant areas of land moved across the ocean to become today's continents. Rifts are one reason why continents split apart. The rift in Zambia is part of a 2,500-kilometre-long crack. It is moving very slowly. It will take millions of years for Africa to split into two. In 200 million years, there could be just one supercontinent again.

# AFRICA SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2605/260514-african-continent-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about Africa in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

